

C3 Sub D5
7. (Twice amended) A plant expression vector comprising the MEL7 promoter of claim 1.

C4
8. (Amended) The plant expression vector of claim 7, wherein the MEL7 promoter is operably linked to a heterologous nucleic acid coding sequence.

9. (Amended) The plant expression vector of Claim 8, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid coding sequence is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

C5
11. (Amended) A plant cell comprising the plant expression vector of claim 7.

C6 Sub D8
13. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the MEL7 promoter is operably linked to a heterologous nucleic acid coding sequence.

Sub D9
C7
15. (Amended) A method of expressing a heterologous nucleic acid sequence in fruit of a transgenic plant, comprising:

(a) transforming plant cells with a nucleic acid construct comprising a MEL7 promoter according to claim 1, wherein the MEL7 promoter is operably linked to a heterologous nucleic acid coding sequence;

(b) culturing said plant cells in a culturing medium containing a selection agent to select for transformed plant cells; and

(c) growing said transformed plant cells to produce a transgenic fruit-bearing plant, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid sequence is expressed in fruit of said transgenic fruit-bearing plant.

Sub D10
C8
19. (Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said heterologous nucleic acid coding sequence encodes S-adenosylmethionine hydrolase (SAMase) and wherein said transgenic fruit-bearing plant produces mature fruit that exhibit a decrease in ethylene production relative to a non-transgenic plant.

Please add new claim 20 as follows:

C9 Sub E1
20. (New) A plant cell comprising the plant expression vector of claim 10.

Please cancel claims 2, 3, and 16-18 without prejudice.

Remarks

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7-15, 19 and 20 will be pending.